



DATE: May 27, 1983

TO: Division File ✓

FROM: Ken Mensing - Southern Region *KM*

SUBJECT: L16300000 - St. Clair County - Sauget/Sauget S.T.P.

RECEIVED

JUN 01 1983

E.P.A. - D.L.P.C.
STATE OF ILLINOIS

On May 10, 1983, Rev. Buck Jones of Project Hope in East St. Louis and about twenty residents of the Rush City area of East St. Louis came to the Collinsville Regional Office to voice their concerns concerning dioxin contamination in the Sauget area and to express their opinions that the Agency has not responded to their needs. Rev. Jones had notified the local news media that he and local residents would be going to the Collinsville EPA Office at 11:00 a.m. on May 10, 1983. I did not find out about the protest meeting until around 9:30 a.m. on that date. At 10:55 a.m. the group entered my office, followed by various news media representatives. I informed Rev. Jones and the group that I was not the proper Agency spokesman regarding this situation, because the matter was being spearheaded and coordinated out of the main office in Springfield. They considered these statements to be further Agency run around. Rev. Jones claimed that the Agency did not have the common courtesy to return his phone calls.

The Rush City area is about one mile from the Sauget Treatment Plant. The residents are fearful that the dioxin contamination may have spread to their area. I informed Rev. Jones that I would phone the main office and get him in contact with someone who could best respond to their questions. I phoned Roger Kanerva and let Rev. Jones talk to him. The main point of their conversation was that the Agency would meet with the group in the near future to discuss their concerns about the possibility of dioxin contamination in the Rush City area.

The meeting was scheduled for May 19, 1983 at 2:00 p.m. at the Rush City Community Hall. On this date and time, Nick Mahlandt - DWPC, Bob Hagele - Public Participation, and I met with Rev. Buck Jones and the residents of Rush City. The news media was well represented at the meeting. We explained the sampling that was performed near the Sauget Sewage Treatment Plant and that this sampling indicated that the dioxin contamination was localized in a small area near the plant. We further explained that dioxin is only slightly soluble in water, that it has an affinity for soil particles and that it was extremely unlikely that their neighborhood could be contaminated due to the Sauget dioxin contaminated area. Technical statements in no way served to allay their fears. They said we had not tested in Rush City and therefore did not know for sure that dioxin was not present. It soon became evident that they would not be satisfied until sampling was performed in their neighborhood. Rev. Jones indicated that he would apply whatever pressure was necessary to have samples taken and analyzed. I informed them that the IEPA had collected the prior dioxin samples in Illinois, but that it was in association with the USEPA, because they were providing the analyses and paying the costs. I told the group that I would need to discuss the matter with USEPA and determine if they were willing to have the samples analyzed. I informed Rev. Jones that I would get back in touch with him by May 24, 1983.

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



412208